

» FOOTBALL «

Scouting Report: Maryland*How Clemson Wins...***EXPLOIT THE TERPS' QUARTERBACK WOES**

Nobody likes kicking a turtle when it's down, but that won't stop the Tigers from doing their best to turn Maryland's season-long quarterbacking nightmare into a one-game disaster. Going into the Terps' game against Georgia Tech, there were no quarterbacks remaining on the Terps' active roster, and no one moved into the position had ever thrown a pass in a college game. The Terp, having lost four quarterbacks to season-ending injuries, started first-year freshman linebacker Shawn Petty — a native of nearby Greenbelt, Md. — on Saturday. He was backed by first-year freshman tight end Brian McMahon. Maryland has been the ACC's worst at giving up sacks. On the floor of Death Valley, this should be ugly.

PROTECT TAJH BOYD

Maryland's defense is its strength, and a high priority for the Terps will be in preventing Tajh Boyd from executing Clem-

son's offense. Maryland defenders have wreaked havoc in opposing backfields all season. The Terps rank 24th nationally with 7.1 tackles for loss per game, and are 16th in quarterback sacks. The Terps forced Wake Forest's usually-efficient Tanner Price in a 32 percent completion mark. The Tigers need to give Boyd time to work his magic.

PLAY SHUTDOWN DEFENSE AGAINST THE ACC'S WORST OFFENSE

Even when some of their quarterbacks were healthy, Maryland was having a hard time moving the football, sustaining possession, scoring points and hanging onto the football. Going into the Georgia Tech game, Maryland ranked last in the ACC in scoring, total offense, first downs, sacks allowed and turnovers. The Terps were 11th in rushing, turnover margin and red-zone offense, and 10th in passing and third-down conversions. Clemson's defense has improved — now it's time to show it by dominating a struggling opponent.

Maryland head coach Randy Edsall, left, has lost four quarterbacks to season-ending injuries. Shawn Petty, above, filled in at that spot last week against Georgia Tech.

*Trouble Spots...***QBs Shawn Petty & Brian McMahon:**

Both are unknowns, having been playing at other positions until last week. Both were accomplished high school quarterbacks.

DL Joe Vellano: A strong contender for ACC defensive player of the year honors, Vellano has been a terror to block this season. He leads the league in tackles for loss and ranks fifth in sacks.

DL A.J. Francis: A seasoned senior veteran, he's stout against the run and leads the ACC in fumble recoveries with three.

LB Demetrius Hartsfield: He's been one of the ACC's top linebackers since his freshman season, and is the team's leader in tackles with 78.

LB Darin Drakeford: He earned Maryland's defensive player of the game honor against Virginia, has 9.5 tackles for loss, and ranks third in the ACC in sacks.

WR-KR Stefon Diggs: Last year's post-signing day surprise has lived up to his billing and has already established himself as one of the ACC's most dynamic playmakers. He caught 11 passes for 152 yards against BC, and ranks fourth in the league in receiving yards per game. He's already been honored as an ACC player of the week four times.

RB Wes Brown: While Maryland's rushing attack has been nothing to write home about, Brown has been with the ball when he's had room to run. He has the Terps' lone 100-yard rushing game this season.

TE Matt Furstenburg: He ranks third in the ACC in receptions among tight ends.

DB Jeremiah Johnson: He's averaging almost a PBU per game.

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Defensive back Jeremiah Johnson averages almost a PBU per game.

How Maryland Wins...

STOP THE RUN

How good is Maryland's defense against the run? The Terps just held Boston College to eight yards, which was the fifth time in eight games they've held an opponent under 100 yards. For the season, they rank 18th nationally, giving up just 97.2 yards per game, and were giving up just 2.3 yards per rush before facing Georgia Tech's option, which ranked third in the nation. This team doesn't have many strengths, so it's essential that they do what they do best. Chad Morris, on the other hand, is likely to have a trick or two up his sleeve, and isn't likely to give up on the run easily. It should make for an interesting battle of wills.

WIN THE RETURN GAME

Maryland has one of the nation's most dynamic return men in first-year fresh-

man Stefon Diggs, who ranks in the top five in the ACC in both kickoff returns and punt returns. He returned a kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown against Virginia, and ranks ninth nationally in all-purpose yards per game. On the other side of the ball, Maryland's kickoff coverage will be critical, as well. Sammy Watkins burned the Terps last year, and he's overdue to do it again. Kickoff man Brad Cockrell hasn't been much help, as he managed touchbacks on just five of his first 37 kickoffs.

TAKE AWAY CLEMSON'S QUICK STRIKES

Maryland's defense is well-suited to making opponents go the long, hard way. The Terps' stinginess will be compromised, however, if they allow the Tigers the big, game-changing plays that have become a Clemson trademark under Chad Morris. Maryland needs for this one to unfold as a low-scoring defensive battle.

Tigerama kicks off Homecoming Weekend Friday, Nov. 9th



Clemson University's homecoming weekend festivities will kick off with the 56th annual Tigerama Homecoming Pep Rally on Friday, November 9th.

"Tigerama Tailgate" leads off the night at 5:30 p.m. on the lawn of Littlejohn Coliseum. This free event is for the whole family to enjoy, featuring live music, a magician, games, prizes and appearances by Clemson student-athletes as well as student organizations.

Tigerama will begin at 7 p.m. inside Littlejohn Coliseum with the overall theme honoring "The Spirit of '89" and the established traditions that tie Clemson students to the founding of the University in 1889.

The emcees for the night are Clemson's very own Miss South Carolina, Ali Rogers, and past Clemson football player and current television personality, Tribble Reese. The event features a special appearance by Dabo Swinney and the football team, Tiger Band, Gospel Choir, Army Rangers, the cheerleaders and Rally Cats,

a skit performed by a student organization, a cappella group TIGEROAR, and the crowning of Miss Homecoming! The night will conclude with a fireworks show outside of the Coliseum.

Tickets for Tigerama can be purchased in advance to the general public, \$8 for adults and \$6 for students and children. On the night of the event, tickets can be purchased for \$10 at the door.

Tickets are available at the Memorial Stadium ticket office, the Littlejohn Coliseum box office, the Alumni Center, and many downtown Clemson retailers, such as Mr. Knickerbocker's, Tiger Sports Shop, and the Athletic Department. Several restaurants will be offering discounts the week of the show with proof of a purchased ticket, including but not limited to Smokin' Pig, Spill the Beans, Groucho's, and Sweetgrass.

For a complete list of ticket vendors, participating restaurants and general information, please visit our website at <http://www.tigerama.org>.

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